Remarks:

Pending in the application at the time of the outstanding restriction requirement were claims 1-23 and 31-81. The outstanding restriction requirement requested election of one of the following three claims groups:
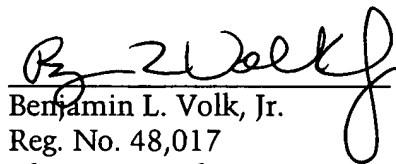
(I) Claims 1-8, 20, 22, 37-39 and 42, which are drawn to a data storage device comprising an approximate matching and pre-fetch processor connected to a storage medium, and classified in class 707, subclass 10;

(II) Claims 9-19, 33-36, 40, 41 and 53-81, which are drawn to a retrieval device for retrieving data from a mass storage medium including a matching circuit for comparing a determined key representative of the data sought to be retrieved with a data signal representative of a continuous stream of data read from said mass storage medium, and classified in class 707, subclass 1; and

(III) Claims 21, 23, 31, 32 and 43-52, which are drawn to a computer having a main processor, a working memory, a supplemental memory, and a circuit coupled to said supplemental memory for pattern matching a key to continuous stream of data read from said supplemental memory, and classified in class 707, subclass 6.

Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group II without traversal. The claims readable upon group II are claim 9-19, 33-36, 40, 41 and 53-81. All other claims are hereby withdrawn.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claims via one or more divisional patent applications.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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